

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 CPR-01 IO-10 /076 W

----- 011759

P R 030425Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3607

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 2987

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS IN VIENTIANE

REF: STATE 069945

1. RANKING OFFICERS OF THIS MISSION HAVE RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO A "SOIREE SOLENNELLE" MAY 7 SPONSORED JOINTLY BY SOVIET, EAST GERMAN AND HUNGARIAN AMBASSADORS AND POLISH AND CZECH CHARGES TO COMMEMORATE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF "DEFEAT OF HITLERIAN FASCISM." EVENING IS TO INCLUDE SPEECH BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND SHOWING OF SOVIET FILM ON TAKING OF BERLIN (PART FIVE OF LENGTHY SOVIET EPIC "LA LIBERATION," OTHER INSTALLMENTS OF WHICH SOVIETS HAVE PREVIOUSLY SCREENED HERE). IN ADDITION, SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAS ISSUED INVITATIONS TO A RECEPTION MAY 8 TO COMMEMORATE SAME EVENT. THE TWO INVITATIONS ARRIVED IN SAME ENVELOPE.

2. I HAVE DISCUSSED THESE INVITATIONS WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR WHO IN TURN HAS CONTACTED FRENCH AMBASSADOR. WE ALL AGREE THAT FIRST INVITATION IS NOT ONLY PRE-SUMPTUOUS BUT INSULTING; CO-SPONSORED BY EAST GERMAN IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO SWALLOW. (WEST GERMANY HAS NO RESIDENT MISSION HERE.) BOTH FRENCH AND BRITISH

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AMBASSADORS HAVE NOW DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND AND WILL NOT

SEND REPRESENTATIVES EITHER. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, I INTEND TO FOLLOW SAME COURSE.

3. ON OTHER HAND, WE SHALL ATTEND MAY 8 SOVIET RECEPTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL (PARA 5).

4. FYI, DATT RECEIVED LOW-KEY APPROACHES SEVERAL WEEKS AGO FROM TWO SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICERS ABOUT POSSIBLE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN SOME SORT OF JOINT ALLIED COMMEMORATION. AFTER DISCUSSING QUESTION WITH AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE HE INDICATED THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER SUCH PARTICIPATION, BUT WE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER FROM SOVIETS.
CHAPMAN

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